

SENATE BILL 727

By Tate

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
relative to the reduction of the number of school  
districts.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-2-501, is amended by adding the  
following language as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

( )

(1) Notwithstanding any general law or any private act to the contrary, all  
special school districts operating on the effective date of this act are abolished on  
July 1, 2016. The administration of all schools operated by such systems shall  
be transferred to the county school system of the county where the special  
school district is located; except that in any county where there does not exist a  
county school system or there does not exist a county school system that  
operates schools in all grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12), then a new  
county system shall be created to operate the schools of the abolished district  
and any school operated by an existing county system.

(2) The school system resulting from the abolition of special school  
districts pursuant to this subsection shall succeed to all funds, property, and  
liabilities of any abolished district, specifically including repayment of all bonded  
indebtedness.

(3) Any tax for current operation levied for a special school district  
abolished under this subsection shall, until the repeal of the private act  
authorizing the tax, be collected and turned over to the successor school system

for the use and benefit of the schools formerly operated by the special school district.

(4)

(A) The commissioner of education is authorized to provide technical assistance to school systems to which administration of the schools of a special school district abolished under this subsection are transferred.

(B) The commissioner of education, within five (5) days of the effective date of this act, shall notify each school district affected by this subsection of its requirements. The commissioner shall supply each such school district with a copy of this act. Notification of the school districts and dissemination of the act may be done electronically. The commissioner shall require that each school district notified acknowledge receipt of the copy of the act.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 2, Part 12, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

49-2-1210. Notwithstanding any general law or any private act to the contrary, in each county in which one (1) or more municipal school districts operates on July 1, 2016, there shall be created a unification education planning commission under § 49-2-1201. The commission so created shall proceed to plan the consolidation of all municipal school districts in the county and the county school district under § 49-2-1201 through 49-2-1208 with the goal of consolidating all such school districts into one (1) system to be operated by the county by July 1, 2018.

SECTION 3. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the

act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect January 1, 2016, the public welfare requiring it.